THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Responsive Administration is Point 20 in the 20 Point Programme. To explore ways and means of improving responsive administration, particularly at the cutting edge level identified at the district, and come up with concrete suggestions and a plan of action, 5 workshops are being convened of Collectors| District Magistrates in the country, each workshop being attended by 1|5th of the Collectors|District Magistrates of each State. The subthemes discussed in the 4 day workshops are: Identification of needs of groups; Simplifying procedures; Delegation of powers; Accountability; Monitoring systems; Public grievances; Linkage and Recent experiments towards greater responsiveness at the district level. Two such workshops have been conducted at Bhopal and Hyderabad respectively.

Nominations are called for from the State Governments who naminate the particulars. The question of by-passing the State Governments does not arise.

At end of all the workshops it is proposed to bring out the proceedings for a wider debate.

Electoral Reforms

1083. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has pointed out to Government the urgent necessity and initiation of steps for amending the Constitution and varous other laws for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies without increasing their members so as to remove the serious imbalances in population representation, resulting in unfair representation in the coming general election, if so, the main features of the Commission's letter in this regard and the steps taken as yet as follow-up action; and

(b) whether Government would ensure balanced representation in the ensuing general election as a result of completing the necessary action in time and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission has suggested that the Constitution may be amended in such a manner that while the total number of seats allotted to varius States in the House of the People and the various State Legislative Assemblies may remain unaltered, having regard to the provisos below Articles 82 and 170(3) of the Constitution, the original position of delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in each State/Union territory after ever decennial census may be restored.

In making this suggestion, the Commission has *inter alia*, taken into account various relevant considerations like increase and migration of population. changes in administrative boundaries, need for the size of each constituency being the same in terms of population/number or voters throughout the country or throughout the State etc.

(b) This would depend upon the final outcome of the discussion which the Government propose to hold with political parties on the various items of electoral reforms including the proposal referred to in the reply to part (a) above and the decision to be taken thereafter.